

REMARKS

Claims 1-62 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 28 and 31 as follows.

Editorial changes have been made to selected claims. In addition, Claims 34-62 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

For the Examiner's additional information, attached is a copy of the PCT International Search Report issued in connection with Applicant's corresponding PCT application.

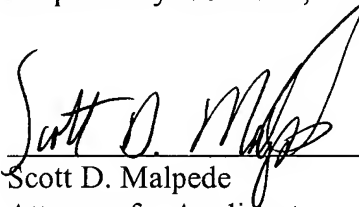
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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